

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 187

By Ford

A RESOLUTION to honor music legend Bobby Braddock.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those gifted artists who enrich the cultural landscape of our State and uphold the sonic legacy of Music City; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Braddock is a music icon who has been entertaining fans since childhood; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Braddock was born in Lakeland, Florida, on August 5, 1940, to Paul E. and Lavonia Valentine Braddock; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Braddock graduated from Auburndale High School in Florida in 1958 and then attended Florida Southern College in Lakeland from 1961-1962; and

WHEREAS, Bobby was eight years old and taking piano lessons when he wrote his first song, which he later performed at a recital; and

WHEREAS, he played piano in several rock and roll bands locally and toured around the South before he moved to Nashville in 1964; and

WHEREAS, after moving to Nashville, Mr. Braddock landed a job at Hewgley's Music Store, but was later fired when he got his apron caught in the trumpet-polishing machine; and

WHEREAS, it wasn't long before he was offered a gig playing piano in Marty Robbins's tour band and, in 1966, Mr. Robbins had chart success singing Bobby Braddock's song, "While You're Dancing"; and

WHEREAS, Bobby also appeared in a couple of country music movies during the mid-1960s and worked around town as a session player before signing with Tree International (now Sony/ATV) as a staff songwriter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Braddock began recording his own songs in 1967 and had some chart success with his second single, "I Know How to Do It," which made it to the Top 75; and

WHEREAS, that same year, he provided the Statler Brothers with two Top Ten hits, including "You Can't Have Your Kate and Edith Too"; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Braddock scored his first number one hit when Tammy Wynette sang "D-I-V-O-R-C-E," a song he co-wrote with Curly Putnam; and

WHEREAS, he continued to steadily create hits through the 1970s, including "I Believe the South's Gonna Rise Again," which became a big hit for Tanya Tucker; "Come on In," which provided Jerry Lee Lewis with a hit; "Something to Brag About" for Mary Kay Place and Willie Nelson; "Womanhood," which was a number three hit for Tammy Wynette; and the legendary "Golden Ring," which was a huge hit record for George Jones and Tammy Wynette; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Mr. Braddock signed to Elektra and scored a Top 60 hit with the title track of his 1979 album, *Between the Lines*; he continued writing hits for other artists through the early 1980s, and among them was the song that restored the flagging career of George Jones, "He Stopped Loving Her Today," which he co-wrote with Curly Putnam; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Bobby again appeared on the charts with a cut from his second Elektra album, *Love Bomb*; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Bobby Braddock was inducted as the youngest living member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1981, and "He Stopped Loving Her Today" won the CMA Song of the Year Award two years in a row, which was only the second time in CMA history that a song won in this category for a second consecutive year; that song was voted "All Time Favorite Country Song" by the readers of *Country America Magazine* and by the listeners of the BBC in England, and it was also named by industry executives in an *R&R* poll as Country Song of the Century; and

WHEREAS, he wrote several big hits during the 1990s, including "Time Marches On" and "Texas Tornado" for Tracy Lawrence, and "Old Flames Have New Names" for Mark Chesnutt; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Braddock estimates that he has written approximately 1,200 songs and has had around eighty songs make it onto the charts with an estimated thirty-five Top Ten hits, and approximately thirteen or fourteen number one hits; and

WHEREAS, from the 1960s to 1980s, Bobby was a recording artist for five major labels, including MGM, Columbia, Mercury, Elektra, and RCA; some of his biggest musical influences have been Hank Williams, Ray Charles, and The Beatles; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Braddock once again scored the number one position on the Billboard Country Music charts in August 2001 as the Producer of country music newcomer Blake Shelton, whose first single, "Austin," soared to the number one spot on the chart, where it remained for five weeks; and

WHEREAS, soon after, Bobby Braddock hit the charts again with Toby Keith's "I Wanna Talk About Me," which remained number one on Billboard's Top Country Hits chart for five consecutive weeks; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Braddock is the only living person who has had number one country songs in five consecutive decades; he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2011 and, that same year, his career was spotlighted at the annual BMI Awards, where he received the BMI Icon Award; and

WHEREAS, nine of his songs have received more than one million plays each on radio and television, two of which have received more than three million plays each, and Bobby Braddock is a six-time nominee and two-time winner of the CMA Song of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Braddock's latest endeavor is his autobiography, *Down In Orburndale: A Songwriters Youth in Old Florida*, which was released by LSU Press in March 2007; and

WHEREAS, his numerous accomplishments aside, he is also deeply devoted to his family and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Braddock is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his daughter, Lauren, who is an actress, singer, and songwriter in Nashville, and his grandson, Braddock James "Dock" Harvey, who is eight years old; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Braddock has created an indelible legacy of music that reflects his passion and undaunted diligence to attain greatness in his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to recognize with gratitude and compassion the bountiful career and the everlasting talent of this exceptional music icon; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and applaud Bobby Braddock for his illustrious and bountiful career and his many, many gifts of music and song, which have brought pleasure and satisfaction to people all over the world, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.